



Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Montana Pupil Transportation News and Updates February 2002



Maxine Mougeot, Director of Pupil Transportation
Phone 406-444-3096
Fax 406-444-0509
mmougeot@state.mt.us

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STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL BUSES IN MONTANA

The draft Montana School Bus Standards are posted on OPI's website for your review. Go to www.opi.state.mt.us select <School Finance> from the drop down menu of Programs and Services of OPI, and then select <pupil transportation>.

Since You Asked

How much time does a new driver have to get a First Aid card?

Administrative Rule 10.7.111 Qualifications of Bus Drivers, Section (3) says, "In the event a district (or contractor) is obligated to employ a driver as a replacement for a driver employed at the beginning of the school year, or must employ an additional driver, a period of 60 days will be permitted for the new driver to acquire the First Aid certificate. If after the 60 days following the date of first employment of the additional or replacement driver, the First Aid requirement has not been met, the bus operated by the driver will not qualify for state reimbursement for that portion of the year that the driver is not qualified, including the 60-day grace period."

How do we know that a driver is qualified to drive?

Administrative Rule 10.7.111 Qualifications of Bus Drivers, Section (4) says, "The holding of a Montana school bus driver certificate is proof that the driver meets all the qualifications of the school transportation law. The bus driver certificate forms are provided by the superintendent of public instruction for use by the board of trustees. The board issues a certificate to each driver who is authorized and qualified to drive, and files a copy with the county superintendent and a copy with the superintendent of public instruction."

Will I will not qualify to drive if I have diabetes and I require insulin for control.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations 391.41(b)(3) says, "A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that person has **no established medical**

history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently requiring insulin for control.

Diabetes Mellitus is a disease, which, on occasion, can result in a loss of consciousness or disorientation in time and space. Individuals who require insulin for control have conditions, which can get out of control by the use of too much or too little insulin, or food intake not consistent with the insulin dosage. Incapacitation may occur from symptoms of hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic reactions (drowsiness, semiconsciousness, diabetic coma or insulin shock)."

The complete information can be found on the back of the Department of Transportation medical examination form. Click on <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rulesregs/medreports.htm> for a good source of information regarding this and other health related issues.. For information regarding the proposed diabetes exemption program, please contact Ms. Sandra Zywockarte, Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, at (202) 366-2987.

PROMPTLY RETURN TRAINING VIDEOS

IMPORTANT DATES

March 25, 2002 Transportation Aid Reimbursement made to Counties for distribution to schools

March 25, 2002 OPI mails registration forms for June MAPT Conference to transportation community

April 25, 2002 Second Semester TR-5's and TR-6's mailed from the OPI to districts

May 10, 2002 Second Semester TR-5's and TR-6's due from districts to county superintendent

May 24, 2002 Second Semester TR-5's and TR-6's due from county superintendents to the OPI

June 19, 20, 21, 2002 MAPT Conference in Belgrade, Montana

Update driver certificates, bus inspection forms, route information and contracts regularly.